(b) whether it is also a fact that Government didn't take any interest in replying to the said letters;

(c) whether Government propose to affix responsibility and take any action against the officers who didn't reply to these letters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Out of the letters received in the Ministry from Members of Parliament upto 31-3-1994 which remained unanswered till that date, now only 194 letters are pending. The pendency is because in most of the cases the matters raised in the letters cannot be finally disposed of by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas since these necessitate collection of data or requisite information from various Public Sector Undertakings. This process takes a lot of time.

**Exploration on petroleum resources in Cauvery basin**

1401. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) how much area is covered in the Cauvery Basin for geological prospectivity;

(b) what are the estimated reserves in these areas; and

(c) what are the steps taken to explore and develop the petroleum resources in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH SHARMA): (a) The entire prospective area in Cauvery Basin comprising of 15,200 sq. km. onland and 17,700 sq km. offshore has been covered by geoscientific surveys.

(b) The estimated geological hydrocarbon reserves as on 1.4.94 in the Cauvery Basin for onland and offshore are 48.86 MMt and 34.83 MMt. respectively

(c) Presently 4 field parties are deployed in the basin for acquiring seismic data and 8 drilling rigs are deployed for delineating the existing fields as well as for testing hydrocarbon potential of new prospects.

**Pending oil projects from Gujarat**

1402. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various oil schemes and projects in Gujarat, lying pending with the Central Government:

(b) the reasons for the delay, if any; and

(c) the time by which these projects and schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The following projects|schemes pertaining to oil sector in Gujarat are under different stages of processing in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas Corporation:--

(1) Commercialisation in In-situ combustion at Balol (Main) of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation.

(2) Application of In-situ Combustion at Santal Phase-II of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation.

(3) Indian Oil Corporation's proposal relating to Gujarat Refinery expansion

(4) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited's proposal for construction of Marketing Terminal at Sikka and laying of Petroleum Products Pipeline for Transportation of MS, SKO & HSD from Sikka to Kandla.

(5) BPCL's proposal for construction of a crude oil terminal at Vadinar.

(6) BPCL's proposal for JVC with M|s. Gujarat Gas Company Limited for developing infrastructural facilities at Posts for Petroleum Products Handing|Import.

(7) Under the 4th round of bidding, Government had approved award of contract for block GK-ON-90|2 in Gujarat-Kutch Onshore basin to a Consortium comprising M|s. Pan Energy Resources of USA, Stiriling Resources of Australia, Okland Oil Co. of USA, Pan Pacific Petroleum NL of Australia and Trans Asia Consultants of India.

(8) Under the 5th round of bidding, Government had approved award of contract for Block GK-OS|5 to M|s. Rexwood Okland Corporation, USA.

(9) Government has also approved award of contract for development of small sized field Baola in Gujarat to M|s. Interlink Geofizika, Baroda.

(c) It is not possible at this stage to indicate the precise time by when the above mentioned projects|schemes could be cleaerd.

**Cost and time over-runs in the ONGCL and IOC Projects**

1403. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are huge cost and time over-runs in the major projects under implementation by ONGCL and IOC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of the projects in time; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The details of the cost and time over-runs, reasons for delay in respect of projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores under implementation by ONGCL and IOC are given in the statement (*See* below)

(d) The implementation of the sanctioned projects is monitored at various levels and action is taken to remove the bottlenecks which are noticed. The Ministry also has a Monitoring Cell which reviews the monthly progress of the projects under implementation. Besides, the projects are also discussed in the Quarterly Performance Review meetings taken by the Ministry to expedite implementation and avoid cost and timeover-runs.